

with his family when he was a small child. His family raised him there and instilled in him the values of honor, integrity, a love of his adopted land and a reverence for life and his fellow human beings.

At age 17, he left Oxnard and joined the Army. He trained to be a medic and a paratrooper. On March 16, 1966, in the jungles of Vietnam, Alfred was severely and repeatedly wounded as he crawled from comrade to comrade to render aid, to protect his comrades and to retrieve weapons and ammunition needed in the firefight they were in.

By the time Alfred was loaded into a helicopter, he was near death. A chaplain gave him last rites. He survived. Because of his efforts, so did his sergeant and at least one other in his platoon.

But the Medal of Honor Alfred was due was lost in red tape, until two years ago, when the record was corrected.

He returned to civilian life, became a naturalized citizen and rejoined the Army. After another tour of duty in Vietnam and achieving the rank of lieutenant, Alfred again became a civilian. But he continued to serve his country, with posts in the Department of Justice, where he served with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration and INTERPOL. Prior to his appointment as director of the Selective Service System, he served for five years as its Inspector General.

He is married to the former Carol Lee Richardson. They have two children.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred Rascon is a humble man who achieved greatness by quietly and unselfishly doing what he believed was right. He is the right man to head up the Selective Service System. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Alfred on his selection and give him our full support in achieving the goals of his new position.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ALVIN JACKSON, MD, A ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Dr. Alvin Jackson of Fremont, Ohio. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has chosen Dr. Jackson as a 2001 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's mission is to enrich the health and healthcare of all Americans. Their efforts promote healthier lifestyles, improved health care, and better access to health care. The Foundation seeks to ensure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost and to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions. The Foundation promotes health and prevent disease by reducing the harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

Each year, the Community Health Leadership Program honors ten outstanding individ-

uals who have found innovative ways to bring health care to communities whose needs have been ignored or unmet. As one of the ten recipients of this recognition, Dr. Jackson and his program have been awarded a grant of \$100,000.

Dr. Jackson has been honored for his tireless efforts in providing health care to migrant workers in numerous Ohio counties. As Medical Director of the Community Health Services, Dr. Jackson travels by mobile clinic to reach the 8,500 migrant farm workers and their families. Dr. Jackson, the son of a migrant worker himself, takes the clinic from camp to camp providing medical care to those who would otherwise go without.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Alvin Jackson is an example for us all. He has recognized a problem in his community and has worked to solve it. I ask my colleagues in joining me in applauding Dr. Jackson for his efforts and selfless dedication to the care and well being of migrant workers and their families.

IN HONOR OF MS. SUSAN CULVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a fine individual and exceptional teacher, Ms. Susan Culver of Olmsted Falls Middle School, for her outstanding dedication to the education of young students.

Ms. Culver has spent the past few months organizing and planning a project for her seventh grade classes at Olmsted Falls Middle School. Because of her time and dedication to enriching her students, Ms. Culver has received a grant that will enable her to analyze and research pollution in the Olmsted Falls community. Over the past few years, air and water pollution have become important issues in Olmsted Falls, and Ms. Culver has taken it upon herself to analyze this problem. With the help of 140 seventh-graders, Ms. Culver will test pH levels in local ponds, analyze animal specimens, research the food web, and so much more. This program will give students an opportunity to experience their community in a hands-on environment.

This program materialized only through hours of hard-work, planning and researching. Because of her efforts, Ms. Culver's program has been chosen to receive a G.I.F.T., Growth Initiatives for Teachers grant. With this grant, Ms. Culver is offering students a wonderful learning experience that will broaden their educational horizons. Ms. Culver is also planning on taking courses at Cleveland State University about computers and will attend numerous conferences of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

Ms. Culver holds a bachelors degree in middle school math/science and is working toward a masters degree in instructional technology. In 1998, she began her teaching career as a tutor at Olmsted Falls Middle School and joined the full-time faculty in 1999. She teaches science in the classroom, but her influence extends much beyond simple biology and

chemistry. Ms. Culver is giving students information that is not only pertinent to where they live, but that will be relevant for their entire lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a young teacher that is touching the lives of hundreds of students, Ms. Susan Culver. She has given her time and dedication to Olmsted Falls Middle School, and has earned the respect of students, faculty, and the entire Olmsted Falls community.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as our First Lady Laura Bush said in April of this year "Early reading isn't just good medicine, it's an important part of a child's daily activities. Children benefit greatly from reading activities starting at a very young age." Mr. Speaker, our First Lady is absolutely right!

Unfortunately, in the 2002 budget, President Bush cut all federal funding for a 35-year-old nationwide reading program. The program which is known as Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is supported through the U.S. Department of Education's Inexpensive Book Distribution Program (IBDP). RIF provides free, new books and family literacy services to 18,000 school and community sites with the vital help of more than 310,000 local volunteers.

RIF has a proven record and should not be destroyed or altered. For 35 years, it has given free paperback books to poor children in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. offshore territories. If the federal government gives states reading grants, as President Bush wants, there is no guarantee that this kind of program, which is badly needed, will continue.

My district of El Paso, Texas is an impoverished area of our country. Programs like Reading is Fundamental may not make much of a difference in more affluent areas, but they certainly do in El Paso. For some kids, a free book is the only access to reading that they have.

RIF programs operate in schools, libraries, community centers, child-care centers, Head Start and Even Start centers, hospitals, migrant worker camps, homeless shelters, and detention centers. Today, thanks to public-private partnerships, RIF is the nation's largest child and family literacy organization. RIF has placed more than 200 million books in the hands and homes of America's children.

Now, President Bush has proposed a five-year plan to improve young children's reading ability by cutting all funding for IBDP and consolidating the funding into state-level reading grants. This is simply not the answer. The answer is RIF.

I respectfully request that the Administration restore the RIF program in the 2002 budget. The RIF program is an example of a program that is working and making a real difference in the lives of countless children across the country. It would be a travesty to destroy it.